THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Similar suggestions have been considered in the past also and Government's view is that legislation for the purpose is not feasible.

Amnesty International's letter to Bihar Chief Minister

2422. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minster of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Amnesty International had addressed a letter dated 20th September, 1988 to the Chief Minister of Bihar regarding violation of human rights in that State and that no reply has been given by the Chief Minister; and

(b) what are the instances of human rights voilations in Bihar state pointed out in the said letter of Amnesty International and what is the reaction of the Bihar Government to the letter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) According to a report received from the State Govt. a letter of Amensty International dated 26th January, 1989, was received in the Office of Chief Minister, Bihar. Various incidents of alleged human rights violations mentioned in the above said letter have been enquired into and appropriate action has been taken by the law enforcement agencies. The report received from the State Govt. is under examination in the Govt. of India.

Riot victims claims

2423. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a news-item published in the 'Hindu' of 18th January, 1989 datelined Bombay, Mr. Ashok Goenka, Chairman of General Insurance Corporation had announced liberalisation of procedures to settle the claims of victims of the recent riots in Coastal Andhra Pradesh; if so, what are the details of such liberalisation; and

(b) what was the procedure adopted in case of 1984 October/November Delhi riot victim claims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The general insurance industry has given various relaxations for handling the claims arising out of riots in Andhra Pradesh such as acceptance of the certificate from the district officials in lieu of regular FIR/Police Report/Fire Brigade Report, acceptance of extracts from the records of Regional Transport Authorities in case of loss of R.C. Book and resultant delay in obtaining duplicate R.C. Book, acceptance of evidence from sources like Commercial Tax Returns/Damage Certificate by district authorities in cases where accounts books are not available, enhancement of the financial authority of the Regional Managers by one step to expedite disposal of claims at that level. Where insurance policies could not be renewed during the period of disturbances in Coastal Andhra Pradesh due to the prevailing curfew in the area and where claims have been reported, such claims can be considered on expiring terms and conditions where Head Office is satisfied that genuinely the renewal advices could not be given because of the prevailing curfew and provided renewal advices alongwith premium were received immediately after normalisation of the situation. In addition to the above relaxations, the GIC has asked the Companies to appiont large number of surveyors